

90-DAY FINDING ON THE SAND VERBENA MOTH



Photo: Merrill Peterson



Photo: Gary Monroe

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a 90-day finding on a petition to list the Sand Verbena Moth as endangered or threatened throughout its entire range. Although the petition presented substantial information indicating that listing the Sand Verbena Moth may be justified, it contained little information on the biology, distribution, and habitat requirements of the species or potential threats. We did find that dune stabilization and habitat conversion may pose a threat to the Sand Verbena Moth throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

As a consequence, we are initiating a more complete review to determine whether listing the Sand Verbena Moth under the Endangered Species Act is warranted. To ensure our review is thorough, we are requesting information regarding the moth's biology, habitat, and threats.

Nine moth populations have been documented in the Georgia Basin and Puget Sound region of Washington. Adult moths have one flight period that occurs from mid-May to late July. The moth's only known host plant is the Yellow Sand Verbena, which occurs along the coast from British Columbia southward into California on spits, dunes, and sandy coastal habitat.

Learn more about the Sand Verbena Moth and how to submit comments here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-3546.pdf>

News release:

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/news/news.cfm?id=2144374704>